

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 6/1, 8/1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,092,060 to Nunoshita. In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been cancelled and dependent claims 6/1 and 8/1 have been cancelled from their respective claims 6 and 8.

Claims 1, 5/1, 7/1 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over ups 4,063,268 to King. In order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been cancelled as mentioned above, and dependent claims 5/1 and 7/1 have been cancelled from their respective claims 5 and 7.

Claims 3-4, 5/4, 6/3, 6/4, 7/3, 7/4, 8/3 and 8/4 were objected to as depending on a rejected base claim. As mentioned above, rejected claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 3 and 4 have each been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 to obviate the objection. Claims 5-8 have been amended to depend only from claim 3 and/or 4 to further obviate the rejection.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 9 and 11-16.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

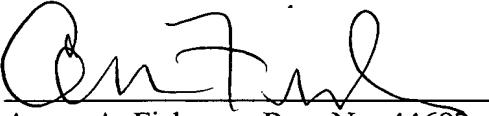
If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same

Appl. No. 10/083,176
Amdt. Dated August 6, 2004
Reply to Office action of April 8, 2004

to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34341.

Respectfully submitted,

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